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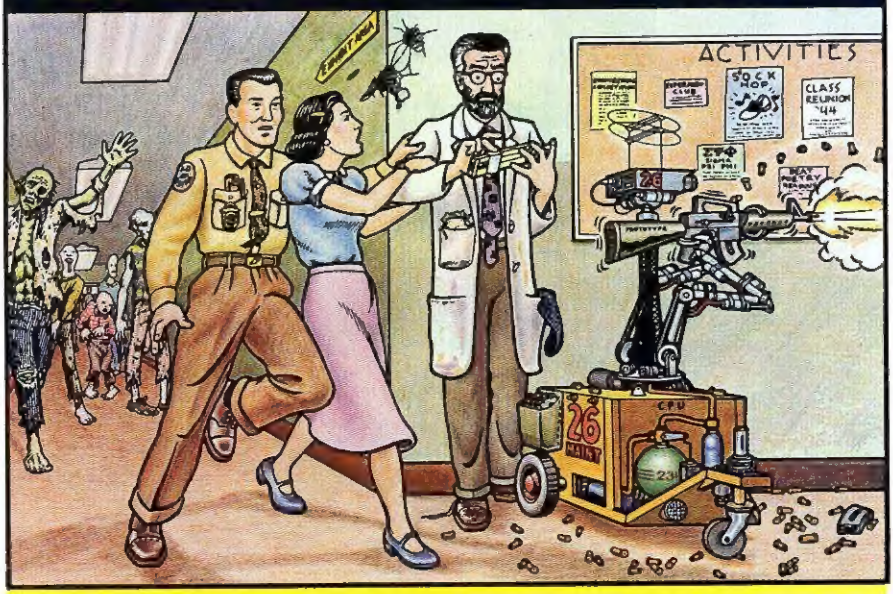


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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!®

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DON'T SWEAT IT, BARNEY! SHE'S ALMOST FULL UP!
BARNEY... SKEETER-- LOOK!
SCRIPT BY: MICHAEL FLEISHER
ART BY: PERLIN & ESPOSITO
COLORS BY: CAROSELLA & CO.
LETTERS BY: DIANA ALBERS
EDITED BY: DAVID KRAFT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JIM SHOOTER

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GOOD GRIEF! BARNEY! WHATTA YOU FIGURE IT FOR? A COPPER?
NAW... JUST SOME WISE GUY THINKS HE'S GONNA RIP US OFF!
BUT BARNEY! THAT CYCLE HE'S RIDIN'-- IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MADE OF FIRE.
WELL, WHATSA MATTER WITH YOU CLOWNS? YOU GOT GUNS, AIN'T'CHA?
SHOOT!
THESE MORTALS ATTACK ME FOR NO REASON.
HOW RICHLY DESERVING THESE MEN ARE, THEN, OF REAPING THE FULLEST MEASURE OF MY AWESOME WRATH!
BARNEY! SKEETER! I-I'M HITTIN' 'IM! I KNOW I'M HITTIN' 'IM!
BUT NUTHIN'S HAPPENIN', BARNEY! HE AIN'T ALLERGIC TO BULLETS! HE--
WHAAT!?
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
2



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WHAT KINDA BULLROAR YOU GIVIN' ME, ANGELO?
BRAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO--
GOOD GRIEF! Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT BIKER AIN'T HUMAN!
HOLD 'IM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN, ANGELO! ME'N SKEETER'S GONNA WING IT OUTA HERE!
WHAT AM I S'POSED TO HOLD 'IM OFF WITH?
HEY! BARNEY! SKEETER! GIMME A BREAK!
SLAM!
HOLD 'IM OFF? WHAT'RE YOU--.CRAZY?



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DON'T LEAVE--
OH... NO...!
GHAAAAA!
AND IN THE NEXT NERVE-NUMBING INSTANT...
FOR PETE'S SAKE, GET THIS THING AIRBORNE, WILLYA, LEFTY? THAT GUY ON THE FLAME-SCOOT'S STILL COMIN' AFTER US!
SO WHAT? LET 'IM COME!
YOU DON'T REALLY FIGURE HE CAN CATCH UP WITH US!
LEFTY! WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN? WE HIT SOME KINDA AIR POCKET OR WHAT?
I-I DUNNO! BUT SOMETHIN'S WRONG!
4



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I-IT'S LIKE WE ALL OF A SUDDEN TOOK ON EXTRA WEIGHT OR SOMETHIN'!
AND THE PLANE! SHE DON'T WANTA GO THE WAY I'M PUSHIN' THE STICK!
I CAN'T KEEP HER UP! HANG ON TIGHT! WE'RE GONNA--
KRAAAASSH!
AS THE VILLAINS STUMBLE DAZEDLY FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THEIR CRUMPLED PLANE, THE BRIMSTONE BIKER SEIZES THEM IN AN ICY GRIP OF SOUL-SEARING FIRE...
AND THEN, HIS ANGER SPENT, HE MOUNTS HIS MYSTIC CYCLE AND HURTLES AWAY INTO THE NIGHT--
--LEAVING BEHIND HIM A GANG OF WHIMPERING VILLAINS EAGER TO BLURT OUT A FULL CONFESSION TO THE NEXT POLICE PATROL THAT PASSES BY...
ON THROUGH THE NIGHTTIME THE GRIM-FACED GHOST-BIKER RIDES, UNTIL FINALLY, IN AN ALLEYWAY ADJACENT TO A GIANT STADIUM--
--HE DISMOUNTS FROM HIS CYCLE OF SPURTING FIRE--
5



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--REABSORBS HIS THRUMMING DEMON-MACHINE INTO THE SATANIC SUBSTANCE OF HIS OWN BEING--
--AND THEN, SLOWLY, BEGINS WILLING AWAY HIS DEVILISH PERSONA--
--TO RESUME THE MORTAL IDENTITY OF FAR-FAMED STUNT-BIKER JOHNNY BLAZE...
WELL, AT LEAST THE GHOST RIDER DID SOME GOOD ON TONIGHT'S RAMPAGE, INSTEAD OF JUST TRASHING PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR THE PURE MALICIOUS FUN OF IT!
STILL, FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO MY LEVEL BEST TO KEEP THE GHOST RIDER REINED IN, AT LEAST UNTIL I'VE WON MY REMATCH WITH FLAGG FARGO TOMORROW NIGHT AND EARNED BACK MY STUNT-CYCLE CHAMPIONSHIP!*
STADIUM ENTRANCE
ATHLETES ONLY
*JOHNNY WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED BY FLAGG FARGO IN HEAD-TO-HEAD CYCLE COMPETITION ISH #'S 45-46. --DAVE THE DUDE.
FARGO'S A GREAT RIDER, SO I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANY EXCUSES! BUT I MIGHT'VE BEATEN HIM LAST TIME, IF I HADN'T LET MYSELF GET SO TOTALLY DRAGGED OUT--CHANGING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN JOHNNY BLAZE AND GHOST RIDER!
THE T.V. PEOPLE TOLD FARGO IT WOULD MAXIMIZE OUR NIELSON RATINGS IF WE COULD DO THE WHOLE THING IN ONE NIGHT, INSTEAD OF THE THREE IT TOOK LAST TIME.
ARENA
6

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# TWO HEROES! TWO LEGENDS!

TOGETHER!
ON SALE APRIL 28th
A JIM SHOOTER JOHN BUSCEMA JOE SINNOTT BLOCK-BUSTER!
THEY'LL NEVER SURVIVE WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THEM, DR. DOOM!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE," PARASITE?
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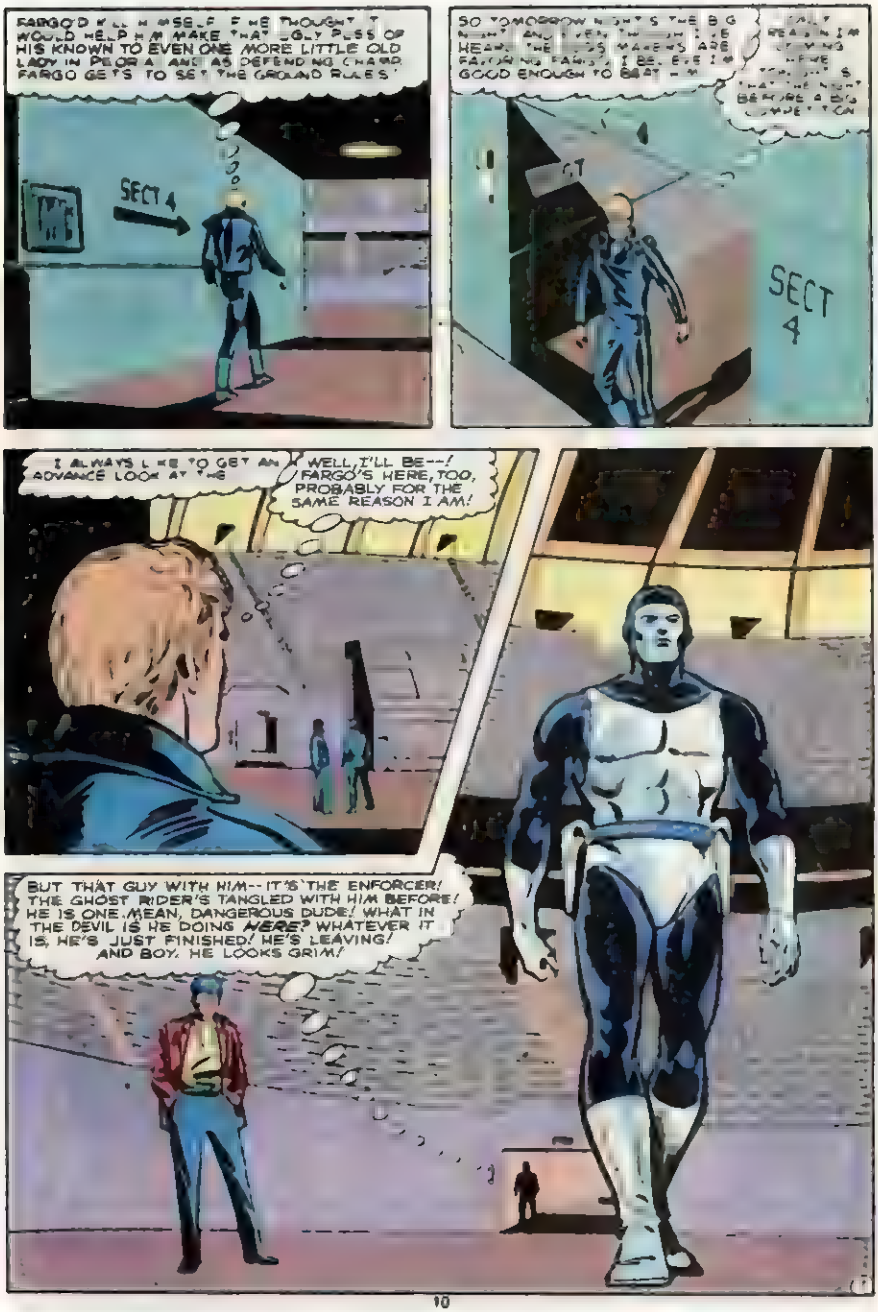
FARGO'D KILL HIMSELF IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP HIM MAKE THAT UGLY PUSS OF HIS KNOWN TO EVEN ONE MORE LITTLE OLD LADY IN PEORIA AND AS DEFENDING CHAMP FARGO GETS TO SET THE GROUND RULES.
SECT 4
SECT 4
I ALWAYS LIKE TO GET AN ADVANCE LOOK AT THE
WELL, I'LL BE--! FARGO'S HERE, TOO, PROBABLY FOR THE SAME REASON I AM!
BUT THAT GUY WITH HIM-- IT'S THE ENFORCER! THE GHOST RIDER'S TANGLED WITH HIM BEFORE! HE IS ONE MEAN, DANGEROUS DUDE! WHAT IN THE DEVIL IS HE DOING HERE? WHATEVER IT IS, HE'S JUST FINISHED! HE'S LEAVING! AND BOY, HE LOOKS GRIM!



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I WISH I COULD'VE HEARD WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.
BLAZO, OLD BUDDY! IS THAT YOU HIDIN' BACK THERE?
NO NEED TO SKULK AROUND THE CORRIDORS, OLD BUDDY! YOU CAN SAVE THE HIDE-AND SEEK ROUTINE FOR TOMORROW NIGHT... AFTER I'VE WHIPPED YOUR TAIL AGAIN AND YOU'RE TOO MORTIFIED TO SHOW YOUR FACE!
AND BY THE WAY... SPEAKIN' OF LAST TIME, WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT I BEAT YOU BY, ANYWAY? A HUNDRED POINTS?
NO, FARGO, IT WAS FIVE MEGS LITTLE POINTS!
AND I'D REMEMBER THAT NUMBER FIVE, IF I WERE YOU, FARGO! 'CAUSE TOMORROW THAT'S EXACTLY THE NUMBER OF TOTAL POINTS I'M GONNA LET YOU HAVE!
HA HA YOU GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, BLAZO! THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE HAS BEEN!
BUT TO PROVE WHAT A GREAT SPORT I AM, I'M GONNA INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIEND CINDY, AND THEN WE'RE GONNA BUY YOU A MEAL. YOU REMEMBER, ABOUT GIRLFRIENDS, DON'TCHA, BLAZO? ONCE UPON A TIME, YOU MUSTA HAD ONE OR TWO BEFORE YOU TURNED INTO A TOTAL LOSER!



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FARGO VS BLAZE
AH! HERE SHE IS! BLAZE, I WANT YOU TO MEET CINDY, THE MOST GORGEOUS WOMAN IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!
AND CINDY, THIS WASHED-UP BIKER YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS JOHNNY BLAZE
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, JOHNNY!
SUDDENLY--
HOLY TOLEDO! THAT CAR! LOOK OUT!
HUH!?
KA-SMAAASSH!
OHHHH! MY ARM!
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP
SCREEEEEE
CINDY! BABY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES... I THINK SO! BUT MY ARM! SOMETHING JUST GRAZED MY ARM!
GET HER TO A DOCTOR FARGO! FAST! AS FOR ME--
--I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN NAIL THAT BUM!



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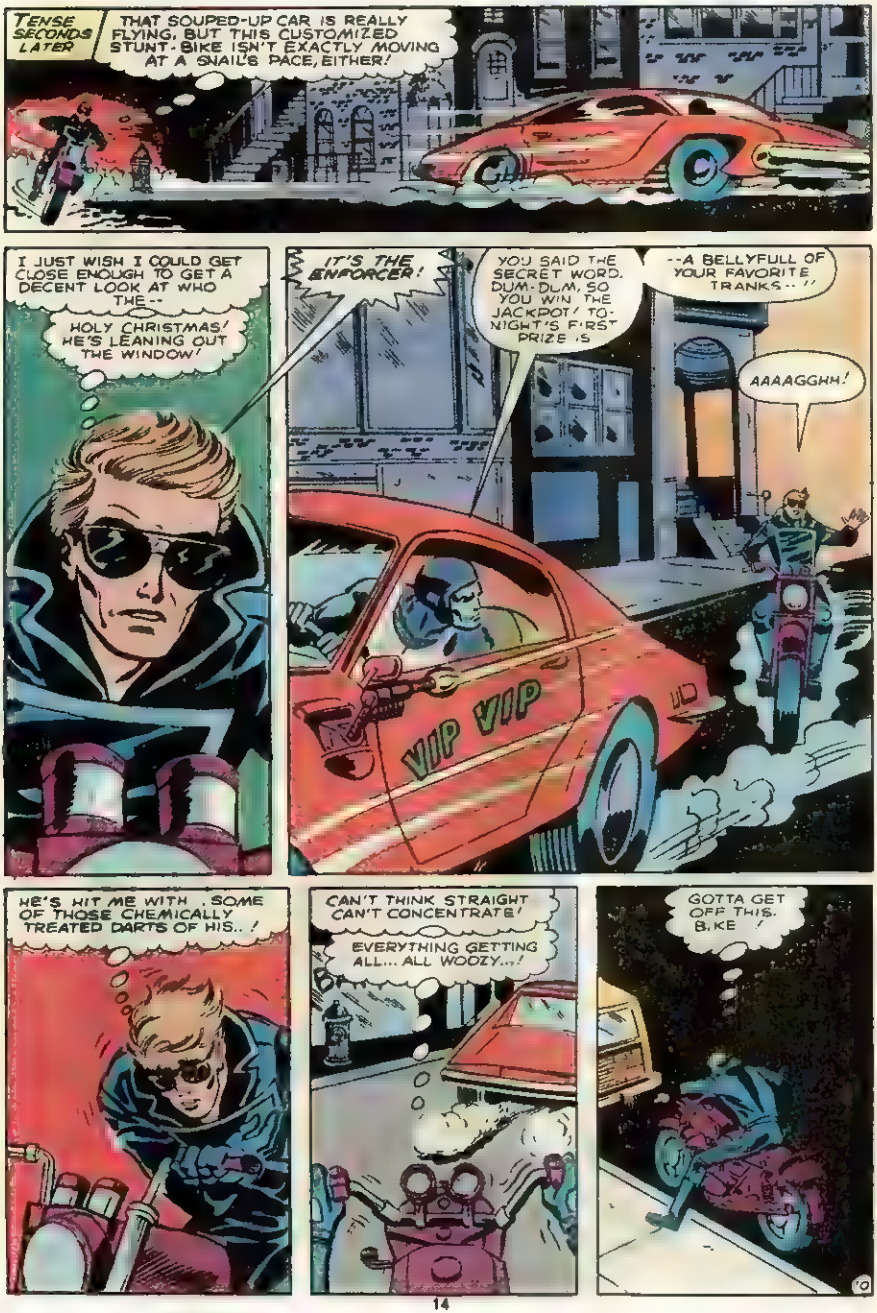
TENSE SECONDS LATER
THAT SOUPED-UP CAR IS REALLY FLYING, BUT THIS CUSTOMIZED STUNT-BIKE ISN'T EXACTLY MOVING AT A SNAIL'S PACE, EITHER!
I JUST WISH I COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO GET A DECENT LOOK AT WHO THE--
HOLY CHRISTMAS! HE'S LEANING OUT THE WINDOW!
IT'S THE ENFORCER!
YOU SAID THE SECRET WORD, DUM-DUM, SO YOU WIN THE JACKPOT! TONIGHT'S FIRST PRIZE IS--
--A BELLYFULL OF YOUR FAVORITE TRANKS..!
AAAAGGHH!
VIP VIP
HE'S HIT ME WITH SOME OF THOSE CHEMICALLY TREATED DARTS OF HIS..!
CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
EVERYTHING GETTING ALL... ALL WOOZY...!
GOTTA GET OFF THIS BIKE!



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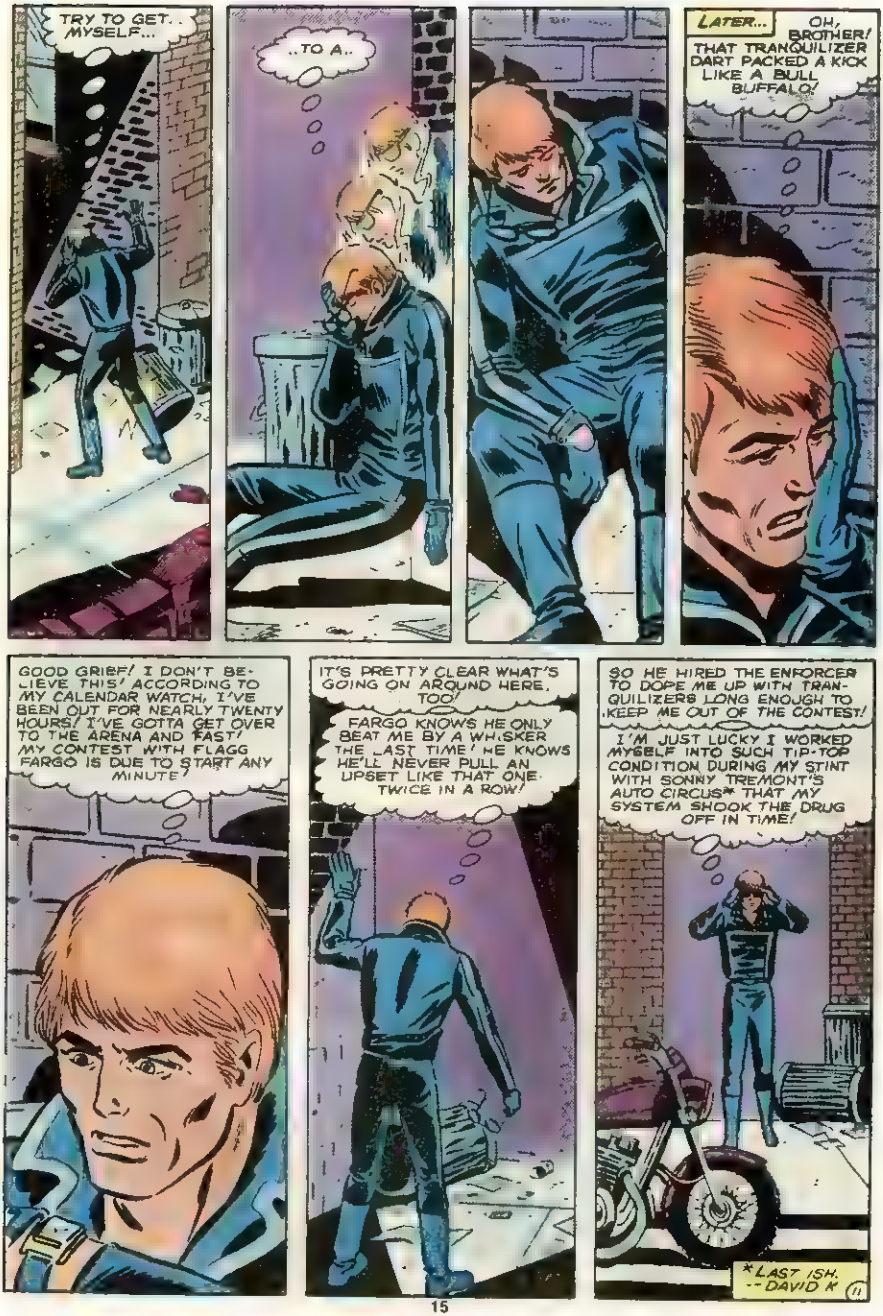
TRY TO GET.. MYSELF...
..TO A..
LATER...
OH, BROTHER! THAT TRANQUILIZER DART PACKED A KICK LIKE A BULL BUFFALO!
GOOD GRIEF! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! ACCORDING TO MY CALENDAR WATCH, I'VE BEEN OUT FOR NEARLY TWENTY HOURS! I'VE GOTTA GET OVER TO THE ARENA AND FAST! MY CONTEST WITH FLAGG FARGO IS DUE TO START ANY MINUTE!
IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE, TOO!
FARGO KNOWS HE ONLY BEAT ME BY A WHISKER THE LAST TIME! HE KNOWS HE'LL NEVER PULL AN UPSET LIKE THAT ONE TWICE IN A ROW!
SO HE HIRED THE ENFORCER TO DOPE ME UP WITH TRANQUILIZERS LONG ENOUGH TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE CONTEST!
I'M JUST LUCKY I WORKED MYSELF INTO SUCH TIP-TOP CONDITION DURING MY STINT WITH SONNY TREMONT'S AUTO CIRCUS* THAT MY SYSTEM SHOOK THE DRUG OFF IN TIME!
*LAST ISH. --DAVID K



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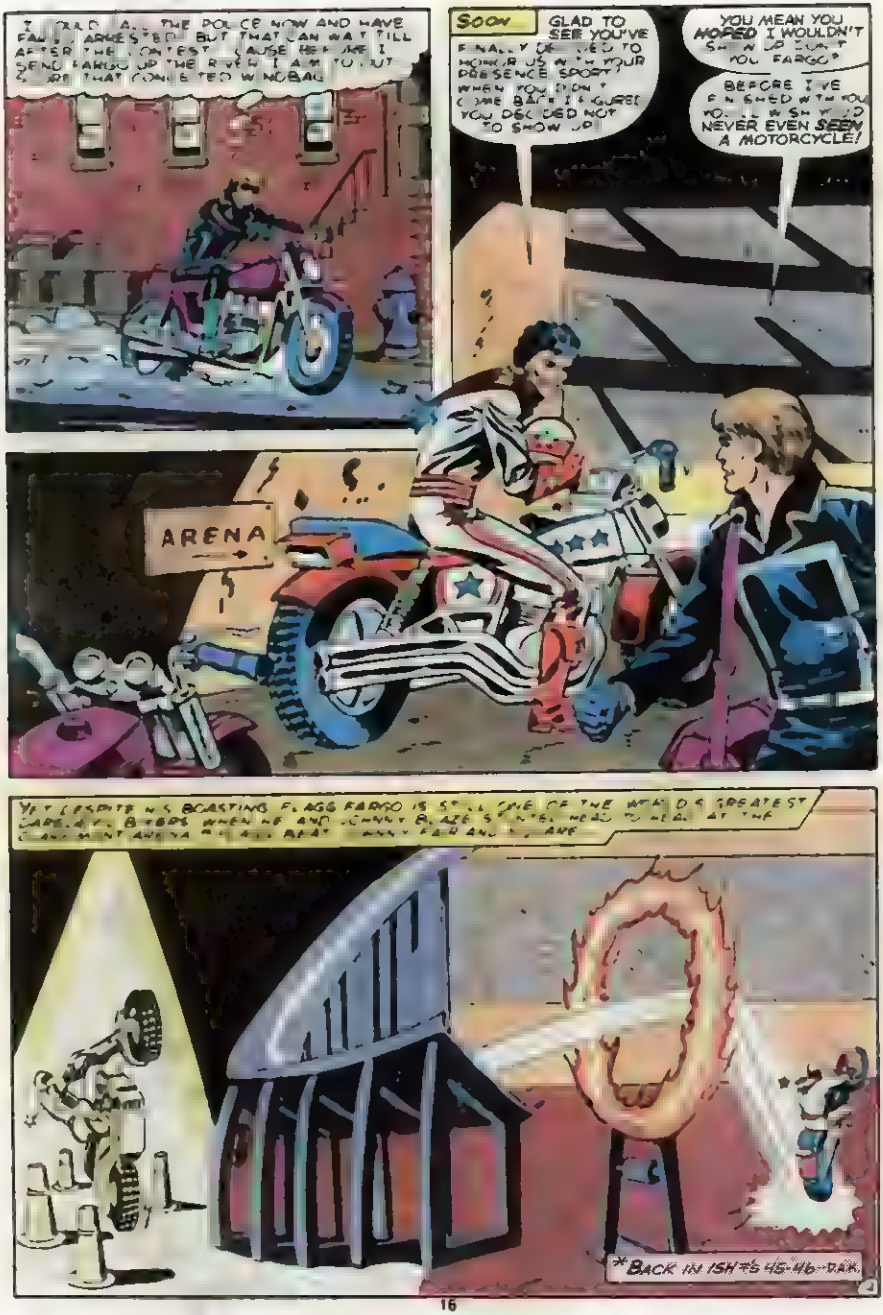
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS THE POLICE NOW AND HAVE FAUSTUS ARRESTED. BUT THAT CAN WAIT TILL AFTER THE CONTEST. 'CAUSE HERE I COME FARGO UP THE RIVER I AM TO OUT ZOOM THAT CONCEITED WINDBAG!
SOON
GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE SPORT! WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK I FIGURED YOU DECIDED NOT TO SHOW UP!
YOU MEAN YOU HOPED I WOULDN'T SHOW UP THAT YOU FARGO!
BEFORE I'VE FINISHED WITH YOU, YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER EVEN SEEN A MOTORCYCLE!
ARENA
YET DESPITE HIS BOASTING FLAGG FARGO IS STILL ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAREDEVIL STARS WHEN HE AND JOHNNY BLAZE STUNT HERO TO HERO AT THE CARNIVAL AREYA DIG IT BEAT JOHNNY FARGO LANE
*BACK IN ISH #5 45-46--DAK.



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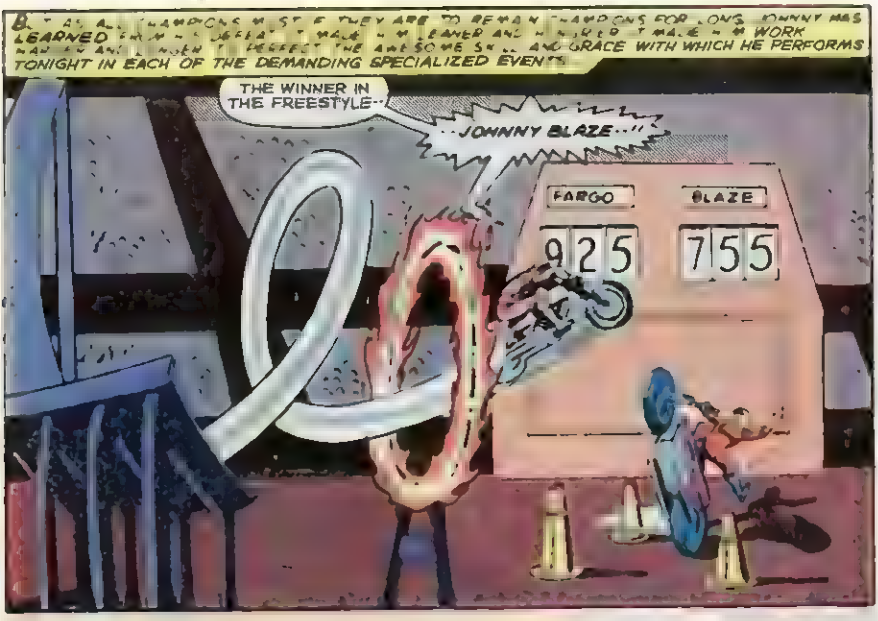
BUT AS ALL CHAMPIONS MUST BE IF THEY ARE TO REMAIN CHAMPIONS FOR LONG, JOHNNY HAS LEARNED HOW TO DEFEAT HIMSELF AS WELL AS HIS OPPONENTS AND HOW TO MAKE HIS WORK AND PLAY AND LIVING REFLECT THE AWESOME SKILL AND GRACE WITH WHICH HE PERFORMS TONIGHT IN EACH OF THE DEMANDING SPECIALIZED EVENTS
THE WINNER IN THE FREESTYLE--
--JOHNNY BLAZE--!!
FARGO
925
BLAZE
755

AND AS THE GRUELING CONTEST WEARS ON THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT...
THE WINNER WITH A PERFECT SCORE IN THE AUTO JUMP--
--JOHNNY BLAZE--!!
I'VE BEATEN HIM! IT'S ALL OVER!
THE BEST HE CAN POSSIBLY HOPE TO DO IS TIE ME NOW AND THE ONLY WAY HE CAN DO THAT IS IF I SCREW UP BADLY IN THE LAST THREE EVENTS, AND HE COMES IN WITH ABSOLUTELY PERFECT SCORES!

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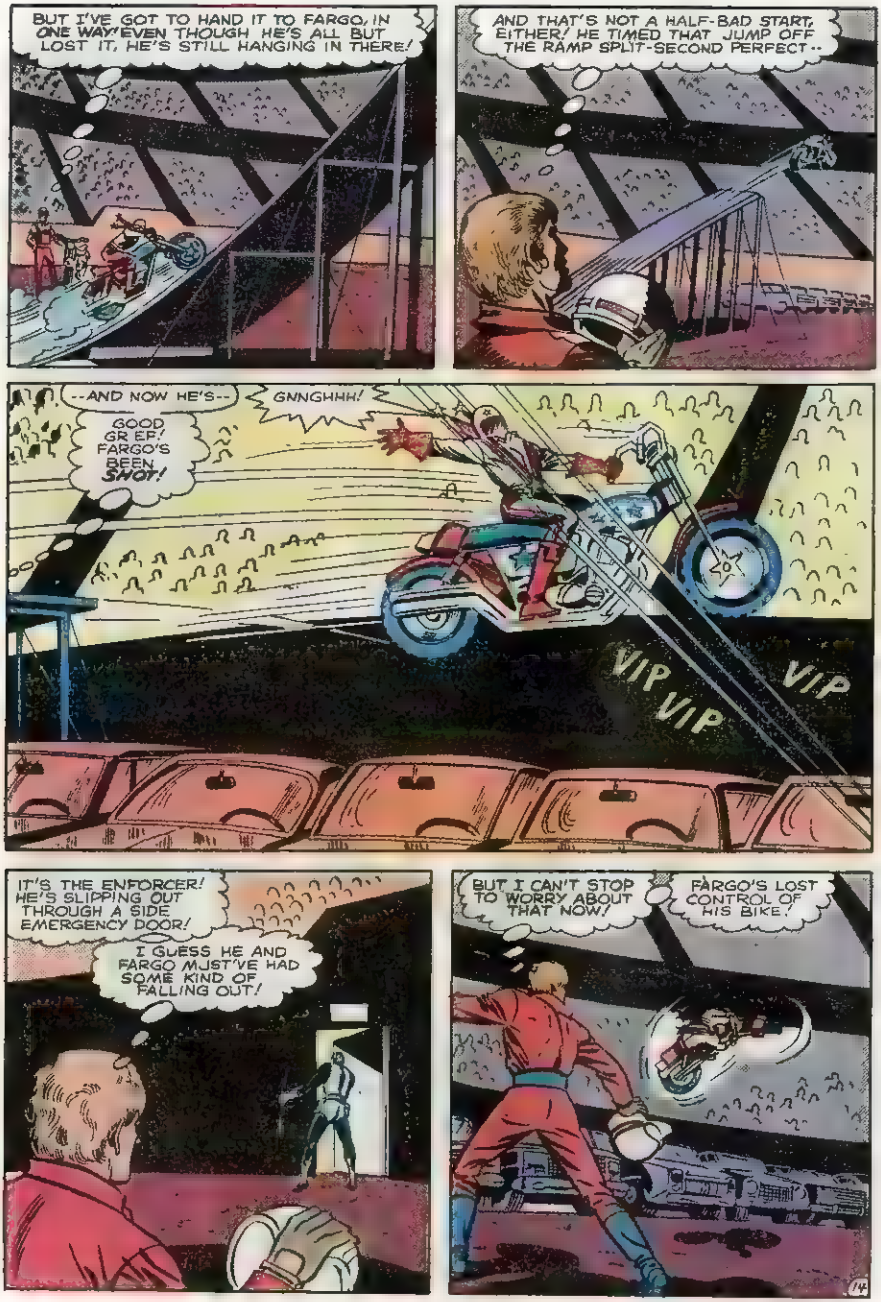
BUT I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO FARGO, IN ONE WAY EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALL BUT LOST IT, HE'S STILL HANGING IN THERE!
AND THAT'S NOT A HALF-BAD START, EITHER! HE TIMED THAT JUMP OFF THE RAMP SPLIT-SECOND PERFECT--
--AND NOW HE'S--
GOOD GR EF! FARGO'S BEEN SHOT!
GNNGHHH!
VIP
VIP
VIP
IT'S THE ENFORCER! HE'S SLIPPING OUT THROUGH A SIDE EMERGENCY DOOR!
I GUESS HE AND FARGO MUST'VE HAD SOME KIND OF FALLING OUT!
BUT I CAN'T STOP TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
FARGO'S LOST CONTROL OF HIS BIKE!



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HE'S NOT GOING TO CLEAR THOSE LAST FEW CARS!
HE'S STARTING TO TUMBLE END-OVER-END!
KA-WHRAKKK!
HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT THE BIKE'S GOT HIM PINNED!
THE FIRE'S GONNA REACH HIM IN SECONDS--
--ULESS I PULL A RESCUE!
YOU SURE MUST BE A GLUTTON FOR (COUGH) ATTENTION, BLAZE, RUNNIN' ON STAGE LIKE THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY STUNT!
SHUT UP, FARGO--BEFORE I JUST DECIDE TO LEAVE YOU HERE TO SIZZLE LIKE AN OVERDONE FRENCH FRY!
ATTENTION, PLEASE! FLAGG FARGO HAS BEEN INJURED AND WILL THEREFORE BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE CONTEST!
15



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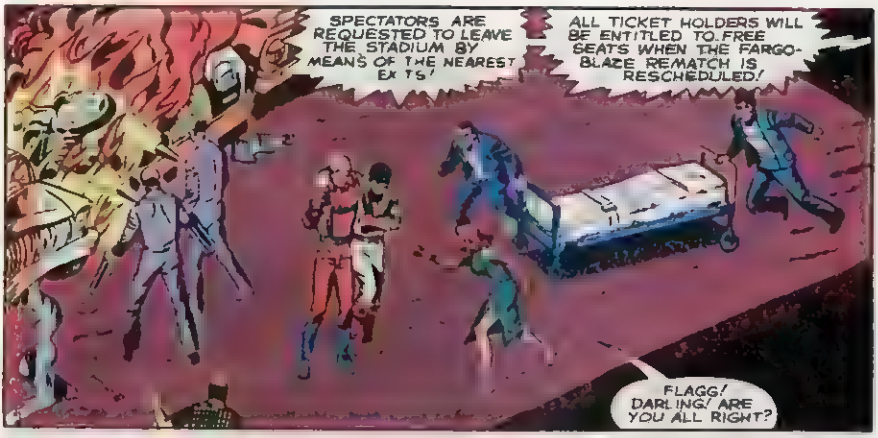
SPECTATORS ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE STADIUM BY MEANS OF THE NEAREST EXITS!
ALL TICKET HOLDERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO FREE SEATS WHEN THE FARGO-BLAZE REMATCH IS RESCHEDULED!
FLAGG! DARLING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

BUT FRANKLY, FARGO ASKED FOR WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT, WHEN HE STARTED GETTING COZY WITH A GUY LIKE THE ENFORCER!
GETTING COZY WITH THE ENFORCER? WHY YOU NO-GOOD SLOB!

FLAGG DESPISES THE ENFORCER! THE ENFORCER'S IN CAHOOTS WITH SOME BIG-SHOT GAMBLERS WHO'VE BET A PILE ON YOU TO WIN THIS REMATCH!

HE THREATENED TO KILL FLAGG UNLESS HE AGREED TO TAKE A DIVE TONIGHT AND LET YOU WIN!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT FLAGG TOLD HIM? FLAGG TOLD HIM TO BUZZ OFF!



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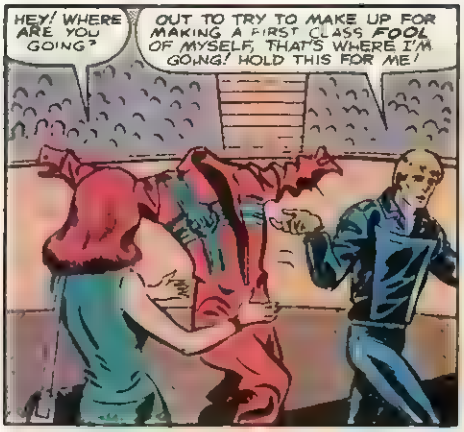
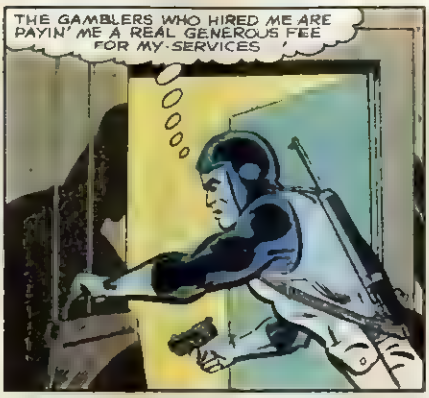
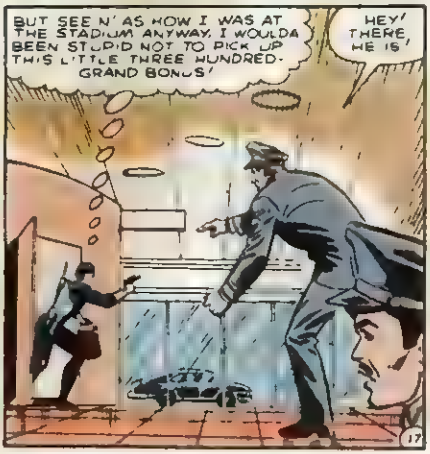


BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT THE STADIUM BOX OFFICE
FIFTY THOUSAND PEOPLE CAME HERE TONIGHT! AT AN AVERAGE PRICE OF SIX BUCKS A HEAD, I BETTER FIND A COOL THREE HUNDRED THOU INSIDE THIS BAG WHEN I OPEN IT, OR--
DON'T WORRY, MR ENFORCER, SIR! I-IT'S ALL THERE SIR!
JUST DON'T SHOOT!





BUT SEE N' AS HOW I WAS AT THE STADIUM ANYWAY, I WOULDA BEEN STUPID NOT TO PICK UP THIS LITTLE THREE HUNDRED-GRAND BONUS!
HEY! THERE, HE IS!
17



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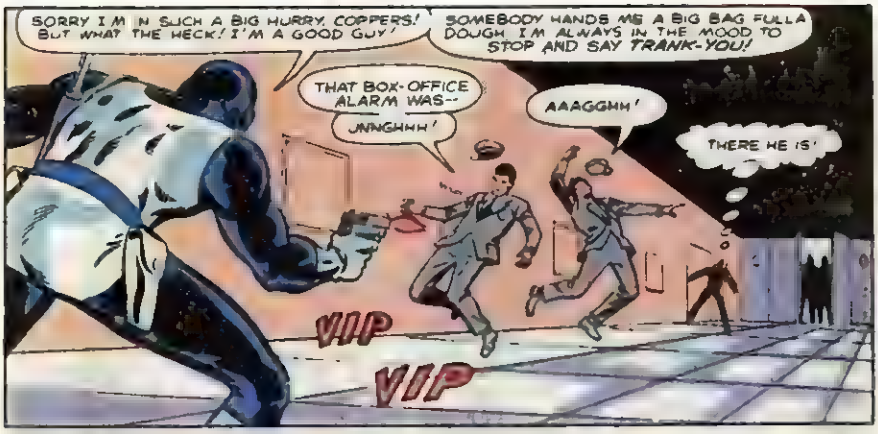
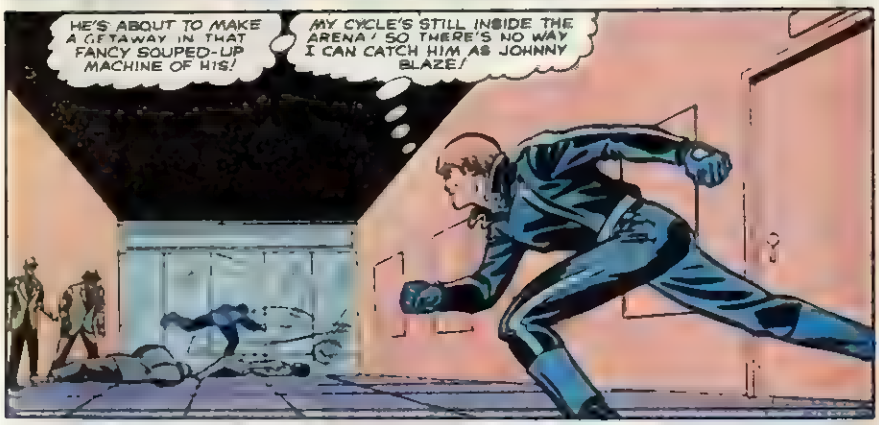

SORRY I'M IN SUCH A BIG HURRY, COPPERS! BUT WHAT THE HECK! I'M A GOOD GUY!
SOMEBODY HANDS ME A BIG BAG FULLA DOUGH, I'M ALWAYS IN THE MOOD TO STOP AND SAY TRANK-YOU!
THAT BOX-OFFICE ALARM WAS--
JANGHHH!
AAAGGHH!
THERE HE IS!
VIP
VIP


HE'S ABOUT TO MAKE A GETAWAY IN THAT FANCY SOUPED-UP MACHINE OF HIS!
MY CYCLE'S STILL INSIDE THE ARENA! SO THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CATCH HIM AS JOHNNY BLAZE!

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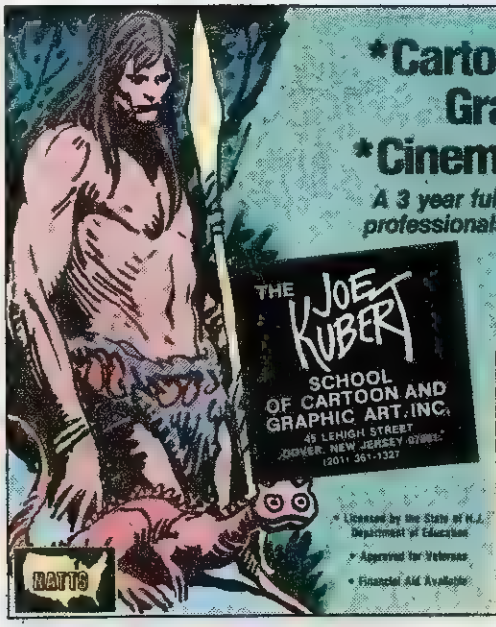
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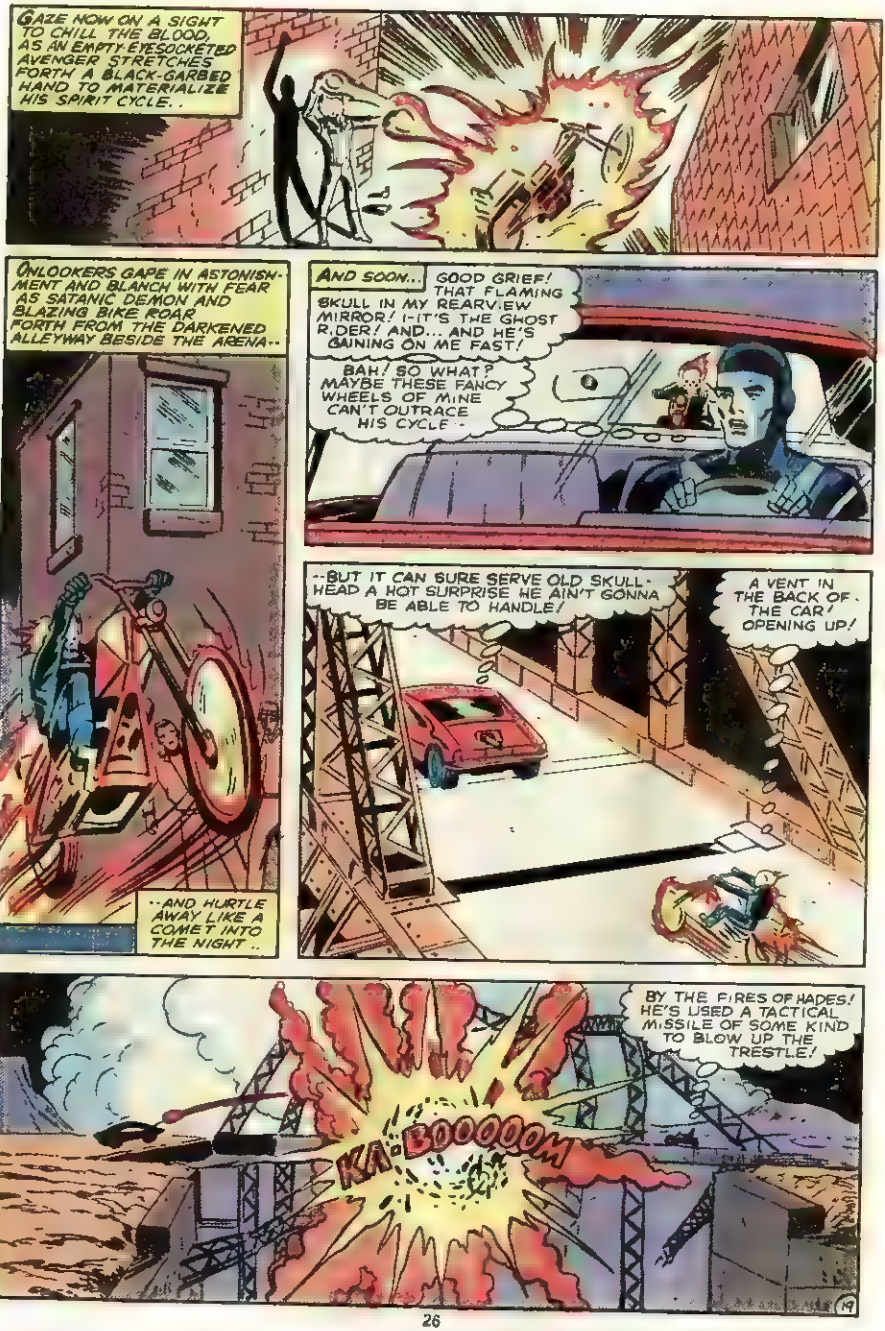
GAZE NOW ON A SIGHT TO CHILL THE BLOOD, AS AN EMPTY EYESOCKETED AVENGER STRETCHES FORTH A BLACK-GARBED HAND TO MATERIALIZE HIS SPIRIT CYCLE..
ONLOOKERS GAPE IN ASTONISHMENT AND BLANCH WITH FEAR AS SATANIC DEMON AND BLAZING BIKE ROAR FORTH FROM THE DARKENED ALLEYWAY BESIDE THE ARENA..
..AND HURTLE AWAY LIKE A COMET INTO THE NIGHT..
AND SOON..
GOOD GRIEF! THAT FLAMING SKULL IN MY REARVIEW MIRROR! I-IT'S THE GHOST RIDER! AND... AND HE'S GAINING ON ME FAST!
BAH! SO WHAT? MAYBE THESE FANCY WHEELS OF MINE CAN'T OUTRACE HIS CYCLE..
..BUT IT CAN SURE SERVE OLD SKULL-HEAD A HOT SURPRISE HE AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO HANDLE!
A VENT IN THE BACK OF THE CAR! OPENING UP!
KA-BOOOOOM
BY THE FIRES OF HADES! HE'S USED A TACTICAL MISSILE OF SOME KIND TO BLOW UP THE TRESTLE!



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THE SATANIC CYCLIST SLAMS ON THE REAR BRAKE AND HURLS HIS DEMON-BIKE INTO A 300 MILES-PER-HOUR BRAKESLIDE--
SCRRRRRRRCH
--THAT ENDS JUST A HAIR'S BREADTH FROM WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CERTAIN DOOM...
AND THEN
I COULD BACK UP, AND LEAP THE TRESTLE, BUT THAT WOULD COST ME PRECIOUS TIME! AND BESIDES--
--HE MAY HAVE OTHER MISSILES IN THAT BOMB BAY, AND A DIRECT HIT BY ONE OF THEM MIGHT WELL DESTROY ME!
FAR BETTER THEN, TO TAKE THE MORE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE--
--AND MEET THE VERMIN FACE TO FACE!
HUH--!? IT CAN'T BE! I LEFT YOU MILES BEHIND ME! I KNOW I DID!
I KNOW I DID--!!
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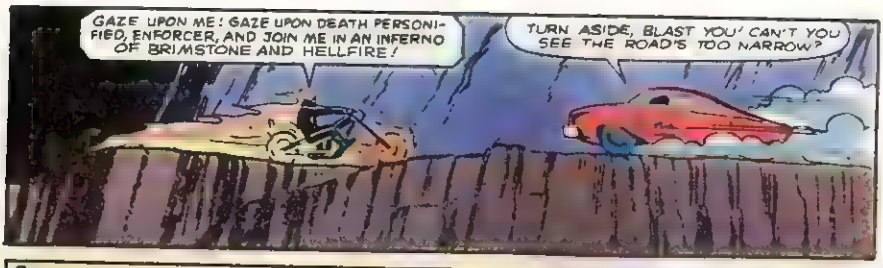
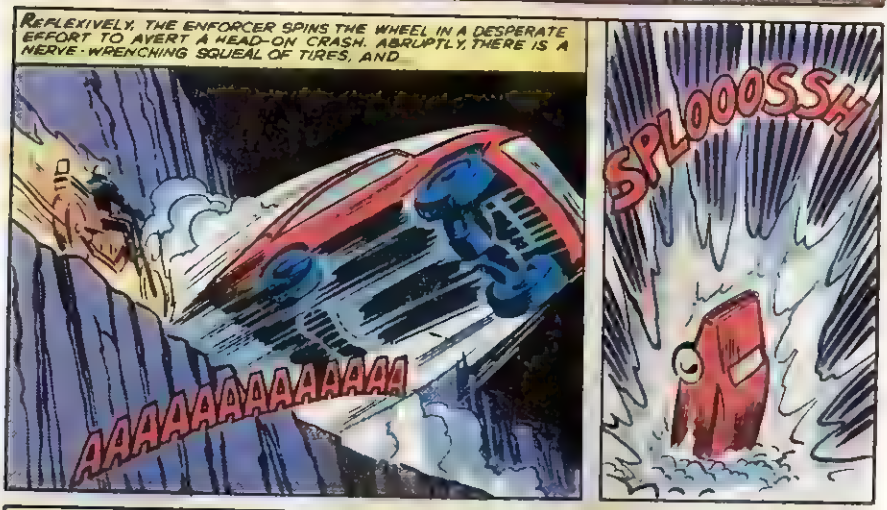
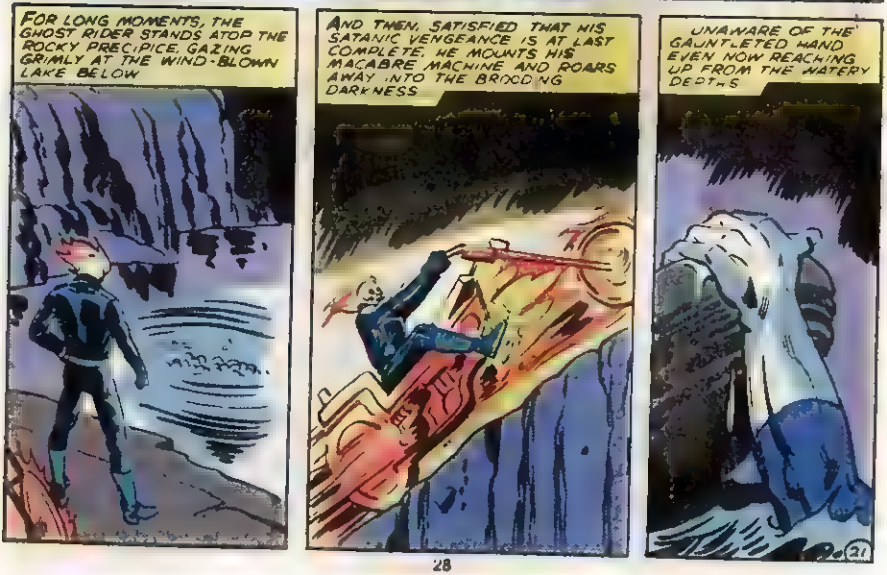

GAZE UPON ME! GAZE UPON DEATH PERSONIFIED, ENFORCER, AND JOIN ME IN AN INFERNO OF BRIMSTONE AND HELLFIRE!
TURN ASIDE, BLAST YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE THE ROAD'S TOO NARROW?


REFLEXIVELY, THE ENFORCER SPINS THE WHEEL IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO AVERT A HEAD-ON CRASH. ABRUPTLY, THERE IS A NERVE-WRENCHING SQUEAL OF TIRES, AND...
AAAAAAAAAAAAA
SPLOOOSSH


FOR LONG MOMENTS, THE GHOST RIDER STANDS ATOP THE ROCKY PRECIPICE, GAZING GRIMLY AT THE WIND-BLOWN LAKE BELOW...
AND THEN, SATISFIED THAT HIS SATANIC VENGEANCE IS AT LAST COMPLETE, HE MOUNTS HIS MACABRE MACHINE AND ROARS AWAY INTO THE BROODING DARKNESS...
UNAWARE OF THE GAUNTLETED HAND EVEN NOW REACHING UP FROM THE WATERY DEPTHS...
21



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HE SHOULD BE HERE SOMEPLACE. AHAH
DON'T BUG ME, WEBHEAD. I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER...AND EVERYBODY'S NUMBER.
IF I CAN TRAP THIS WEIRDO-- IT'LL BE GOODBYE, MR CHIP
SOME HOSTESS CUP CAKES AND MILK MIGHT DO THE TRICK.
I'M PROGRAMMED TO LOVE THIS CHOCOLATY CAKE...MY CIRCUITS LIGHT UP FOR THAT FUDGY ICING.
JUST AS I THOUGHT... A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR GAME IS UP. TIME TO CASH IN YOUR CHIPS.
I'M JUST A CHIP WHO LOVES CHOCOLATY HOSTESS CUP CAKES!
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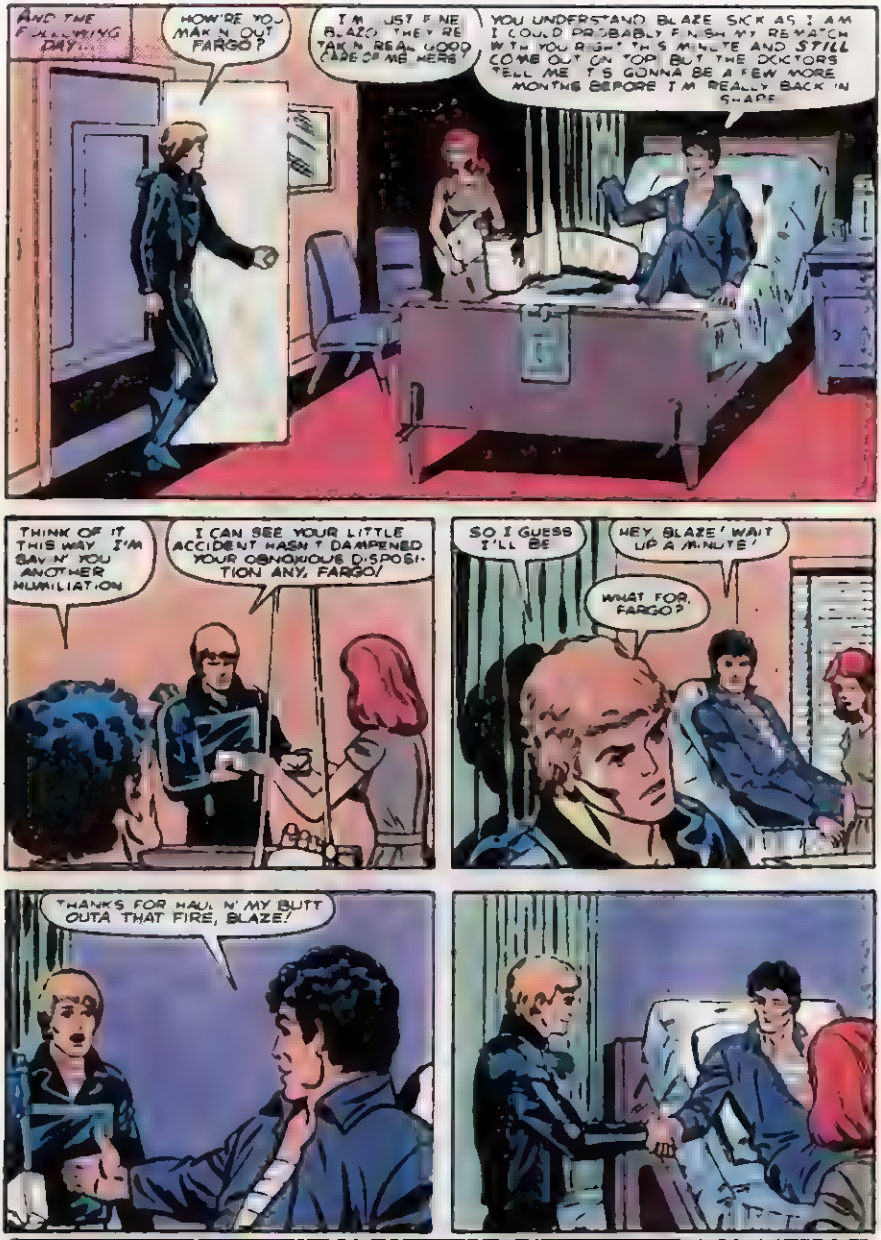
AND THE FOLLOWING DAY...
HOW'RE YOU MAK'N OUT FARGO?
I'M JUST FINE BLAZE. THEY'RE TAK'N REAL GOOD CARE OF ME HERE!
YOU UNDERSTAND BLAZE SICK AS I AM I COULD PROBABLY FINISH MY REMATCH WITH YOU RIGHT THIS MINUTE AND STILL COME OUT ON TOP. BUT THE DOCTORS TELL ME IT'S GONNA BE A FEW MORE MONTHS BEFORE I'M REALLY BACK IN SHAPE.
THINK OF IT THIS WAY I'M SAV'N' YOU ANOTHER HUMILIATION
I CAN SEE YOUR LITTLE ACCIDENT HASN'T DAMPENED YOUR OBNOXIOUS DISPOSITION ANY, FARGO!
SO I GUESS I'LL BE
HEY BLAZE! WAIT UP A MINUTE!
WHAT FOR, FARGO?
THANKS FOR HAUL'N' MY BUTT OUTA THAT FIRE, BLAZE!
NEXT: MOON DARK AND WATER WIZARD-- TOGETHER AGAINST YOU-KNOW-WHO!



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# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## BULLPEN BULLETINS!
### YOU ASKED FOR IT — YOU GOT IT!

We received an avalanche of mail cursing us, threatening us, pleading with us, and generally demanding that the Bullpen Bulletin Page be reinstated. All right, already!

Along with the outraged demands, we received explicit instructions about just what you folks out there want to see and read on this page. Almost everyone said (and in no uncertain terms) that they wanted a minimum of hype and a maximum dose of news about their favorite titles and the stars who create them — the inside scoop, straight from the top.

**TELL YA WHAT I'M GONNA DO....**

The "top" these days, as always, is Stan Lee, Publisher Without Peer. Like everybody else, I'd love it if Stan could write this page. He can't. He just doesn't have time. Why not? Well, running our new Movie/TV operation, ***Marvel Productions***, pretty much eats up the time left over from being Publisher of the Marvel line. What does he do, exactly? Well, he's the Creative Director for one thing, guiding and supervising all of the creative efforts of the entire company. Stan himself will explain some of the other high-level show-biz/publishing executive-type stuff that keeps him hopping in Soapbox Specials which will appear on this page from time to time in the future — whenever he's got some big news to announce and he can spare ten minutes to write!

We'll also present on this page occasion announcements, gossip, news, and nonsense from Al Milgrom, Danny O'Neil, Jim Salicrup, and Louise Jones, pertaining to the particular comics and magazines they edit. You'll also hear from Larry Hama about CRAZY! doings... and once in a while Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC ILLUSTRATED, will enlighten us all about the latest goings on in his domain (down the hall and to the left — the office with the spaceships parked outside. You can't miss it). In between all those special things, *I'll* be giving you the general lowdown on things Marvel-ous, I'm not Stan Lee, but as Editor-in-Chief, I am right here in the middle of things, and I can fill you in on most of the important current events. And I will.

**HOW...?**

About like this. Straight talk, off the cuff, and without a lot of extraneous foofahrah. I plan to concentrate on writing about what you want to know — the behind-the-scenes stuff. I warn you, there's bound to be some of the old hard sell on this page for two reasons: A) we're pretty proud of our works here, and B) we've got to sell a bunch of comics and magazines every month, right? I'll do my best to confine the hype to new titles and really special issues. I'll even put it all in a special little section of its own, so that if you don't want to read it, you can skip over it. Fair enough?

**SO, OKAY, WHAT'S NEW...?**

Since we haven't had a Bullpen Page for eons, a lot of my "news" is already old — but just to make it official...

**WELCOME...!**

...to Denny O'Neil, pipe-smoking, highly-acclaimed writer and editor who joined our staff more than a year ago. His skill at plotting, writing, and teaching same is awesome. Ask DAREDEVIL writer (and penciler) Frank Miller who, with only a few scripts to his credit is being compared to the likes of Chris Claremont. Most likely Frank will admit that Denny is a genius who helped him tremendously, and then say, "too bad he's older than Yoda." Being (gasp) 40, Denny gets kidded a lot by the spring-chicken type Bullpenners (Frank's twenty-four), but he doesn't care. Whenever he gets depressed, a relaxing ten-or-twelve mile run along the West Side Highway perks up his spirits... and stifles the kidders, most of whom couldn't even walk that far. Next month, I'll tell you why a lot of folks around Marvel refer to Denny as "Hef".

**ANOTHER WELCOME...!**

...to Louise Jones, whose sweet, soft-spoken, gentle manner is legend in the trade...along with her strong will, crisp professionalism, and dazzling creativity. She has an uncanny knack for gathering together outstanding creative people and bringing out their absolute best. (Been reading the X-MEN lately?) Louise came to Marvel from Warren Magazines, where she was Senior Editor, and immediately proved that her reputation as an innovator and creator was more than justified. Her terrific talents wed perfectly with Marvel's nothing-but-the-best approach to graphic storytelling. And speaking of weddings, several months ago, lovely Louise married Walt Simonson! Walt, in case you've been in Tierra del Fuego, is an artist whose achievements would take pages to list, and since this paragraph's about Louise, I won't. Besides, I'm sure most of you are familiar with Walt's work, but Louise has done most of her work behind the scenes as an editor, leaving the limelight to others — and so only insiders know that she's considered a powerful, creative force in the industry. Now you know it too.

**ANOTHER ONE...!**

...to Larry Hama — artist, writer, actor, musician, editor, and expert on just about everything. Larry is a martial arts expert, a foreign culture expert, a firearms and explosive ordnance expert, and... isn't this getting dull? So he knows everything and does everything well. Big Deal. If he's so smart, what's he doing editing a rag like CRAZY!? (For the answer, see the Hype Box!)

**MORE WEDDINGS...**

Congratulations to Jim Starlin and Daina Graziunas who were married in October... also to John Byrne and Andrea Braun who were wed in November! John met his lovely lady at the Chicago Con last summer, and maybe if you're good, I'll tell you in an up coming Bulletin how, if it weren't for me, John and "Andy" (as she likes to be called) might have passed like ships in the night! Maybe I'll even get John to tell the story.

**SPEAKING OF JOHN...**

Lots of folks were puzzled when they heard that John had left the X-MEN. Why? Well, after years of drawing X-folks, John was plain tired of multiple mutants. And, frankly, having developed his story-telling skills to awesome heights, John felt the need to have more creative control over the characters he was working on — meaning that he wanted to *write* as well as draw a series. All that added up to moving over to the FANTASTIC FOUR. Chris Claremont, X-MEN writer for six glorious years now, will be joined by Dave Cockrum, who started the new X-Men on the road to success way back when, and Joe Rubinstein, who's an outstanding inker. Looks like everything worked out fine.

**I CALL 'EM RUG-RATS...**

Bill and Karen Mantlo became proud parents of a new little Micronaut, *Carina*... Bob and Fran Larkin recently added baby *Claire* to the brood... and, way down yonder in Texas, Kerry and Sue Gammill presented *Jeffrey Matthew* to the world. If this keeps up, folks may start calling this place the Mighty Marvel *Playpen!*

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**

Recently I was invited to a gathering of the Pittsburgh Comix Club in my hometown, Pittsburgh, Pa., and if you think this is a prelude to a plug, you're right. They're a great bunch of people, hundreds strong, and they have more outrageous projects going than you an shake a DAZZLER No. 1 at. They have a great time... and you can get in on it, even if you *don't* live in the Steel City. For info, write to Fearless President:

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**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**

While in the old hometown, I paid a call at the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library, where I met Charles Aston Jr., Coordinator of Special Collections. Aided and abetted by The Pittsburgh Comix Club (them again!), he is adding a comprehensive collection of comics to the Hillman's Library of Popular Culture. Part of the collection has already been organized and is available for scholarly study. And soon, the library will include the collection in its computerized listings, thereby making it accessible to students across the land. (And, no, you can't check out an F.F. No. 1 for two weeks.) By the way, the collection is being built largely on the strength of donations. If you think you might be interested in contributing to this collection, which Mr. Aston assures us is of enormous historical importance, get in touch with Ben Pondexter at the address above. Do **not** send comics or anything else unbidden. Inquire first, okay?

**AND NOW...**

...that's about it for this month. I advise you to check out the Hype Box, below. The stuff mentioned therein wouldn't be if we didn't think it was terrific.

Thanks.

Jim Shooter

### THE HYPE BOX

If you haven't picked up a copy of CRAZY in a while, you're in for a big surprise. We sincerely believe that Crazy has become, in the one short year since *Larry Hama* took over the editorial reins, the funniest humor-mag around! This month, Crazy #75's got "The Telltale Cat In The Hat Comes Back," "Space War Wizards," and more stuff you're really gonna laugh over. Give it a shot.

And don't miss the all-weird last issue of MAN-THING (#11), also on sale now. It features, among other things, the death of *Chris Claremont!!* Pencils by Val Mayerik.

### THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #77-- Starring the **Thing, Man-Thing,** and **Sgt. Fury and his Howling Commandos!**
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #40
- ☐ STAR TREK #16
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #172
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES #39-- Featuring the **Hulk!**
- ☐ DAZZLER #5
- ☐ KA-ZAR #4
- ☐ SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #53
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #218
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #259
- ☐ THOR #309
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #31
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #58
- ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #19
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #9
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #261
- ☐ AVENGERS #209
- ☐ CONAN #124
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #129-- starring **Spider-Man!**
- ☐ X-MEN #147
- ☐ NOW #20
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #71
- ☐ MAN-THING #11
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #232
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #107-- **Spidey** and **She-Hulk!**
- ☐ IRON MAN #148
- ☐ PETER PARKER #58
- ☐ DEFENDERS #97
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #33-- Starring the **Avengers!**
- ☐ STAR WARS #49
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #102

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #65
- ☐ CRAZY #75
- ☐ HULK #27
- ☐ EPIC #6-- Cover painting by **Neal Adams!**
- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #26-- Featuring **King Kull** with eye-popping art by Britain's John Bolton!

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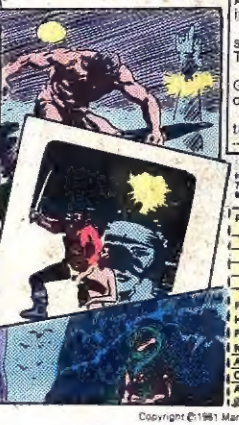

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